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LET STARR DO HIS JOB

Spin doctors in Washington have apparently performed successful surgery on President Clinton's reputation—his approval ratings are soaring with the angels. But Special Prosecutor Kenneth Starr's numbers are down in the cellar.

The steady beat of the president's people, all saying the same thing, has had the obviously desired effect—it's distracted the attention of the American public away from questions of Clintonian wrongdoing, and onto a special prosecutor supposedly running amuck.

Clinton's people loudly proclaim Starr really is overstepping his bounds in his investigations of the president. If he really were, there would be grounds for dismissal by the judges who appointed Starr. Or Attorney General Janet Reno, or the president himself could.

But nobody's moving to dismiss the special prosecutor. They're just making lots of noise on television about him.

Fortunately, the one person whose attention should be on questions of presidential wrongdoing, is. Starr is simply doing his job.

The major issue is not whether Clinton had affairs with Monica Lewinsky, Paula Jones or anyone else—though that certainly is a significant moral matter that he may be forced to address, if the allegations turn out to be true.

The major issue is whether the president obstructed justice. Whether he committed perjury and urged others to do the same. And whether evidence was tampered with, and witnesses bought off. That is a significant legal issue that could drive him out of the White House.

We must, of course, presume Clinton is innocent, unless he is proven guilty. He deserves that constitutional privilege as much as any American.

It's also wrong, lacking proof, to paint Kenneth Starr as the guilty party. He's just doing his job. Maybe his investigation will come to nothing. Maybe not. But let him take as much time as he needs to do that job and discern the truth.

The nation deserves truth. Not spin.

SALUTING THE ORGANIZERS OF THE THYAGARAJA FESTIVAL

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the dedicated work of an extraordinary group of citizens in my Congressional District. For the past twenty years, the Music Department at Cleveland

State University and other volunteers under the direction of Dr. T. Temple Tuttle, have organized and hosted the Thyagaraja Festival. This festival has brought musicians from Asia, Africa, Europe, and Australia to perform in the City of Cleveland and have their traditional art forms, cultures, and values celebrated and honored by political and educational leaders. The event also offers attendees the opportunity to experience an array of truly exceptional cultural performances. Audiences have come from as far as Alaska to enjoy these festivities.

In its 21st year, over one hundred volunteers assisted with food preparation and arrangements for the festival. The festival will highlight the Chief Guest, Sri Mukherjee, and the great vocalist, T.N. Seshagopalan will be honored as "Sangeetha Rathnakara," a high honorific meaning "Jewel of a Performer." In addition to the scheduled performers, who will come from India this year, 70 to 100 amateur performers are expected, and a crowd of over two thousand.

Mr. Speaker, the Thyagaraja Festival stands as a recognized commitment to international unity and an appreciation for the beauty of cultural diversity and artistic expression. Again, I salute the organizers of the 1998 Thyagaraja Festival for creating an opportunity for the City of Cleveland and our great nation to participate in an event whose ultimate objective is to increase multi-cultural awareness and acceptance, and secure global peace.

TRIBUTE TO WOMEN IN BUSINESS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Women's History Month, I rise today to pay tribute to women in business and to express pride in the fact that the women of Chicago and Cook County have benefited from the successful programs of the Women's Business Development Center.

Based in Chicago, the Women's Business Development Center serves 2,000 women annually with counseling, training, financial assistance, certification, procurement and advocacy on behalf of women's economic empowerment. The programs of the Chicago-based center are effective, successful and benefit diverse women. These centers service an array of women and their families, including self-employment for former welfare recipients, business development, expansion and job creation.

The work of the Women's Business Development Center and other women's business assistance centers are essential to strengthening the economy of this Nation by fostering women's business development nationally.

The WBDC and women's business assistance centers are funded by the United States SBA office of Women's Business Ownership and by private and public sector support. They help support a diverse and growing population of new and emerging job-creating women entrepreneurs, including women in transition off welfare.

These centers are unique in that they provide long-term training, involve public and private partnerships for their support, and can be

measured on the basis of their economic impact. These centers have served tens of thousands of women.

The women's business assistance centers serve our constituencies by offering quality programs to effectively leverage scarce public and private resources into successful job creation, new business start-ups, and business expansion. Most of them, even after they are no longer eligible for Federal funding, continue to be sustained by the private sector.

These centers are committed to economic self-sufficiency programs that are as diverse as the women served; women of color, women on public assistance, women seeking self-employment, rural and urban women, and women starting home-based businesses. Therefore, it is appropriate that we pause to recognize the great work of the Women's Business Development Center and women's business assistance centers throughout the country.

I take special note of the work of Hedy Ratner and Carol Dougal of the Women's Business Development Center, Counselor Pope of the Cosmopolitan Chamber of Commerce, Connie Evans, Director of the Women's Self-Employment Project, Karen Yarbrough, proprietor of Hathaway Insurance, Deborah M. Sawyer, founder Environmental Design International and other outstanding women in the City of Chicago and the state of Illinois, who provide immeasurable help and support to other women seeking to go into business.

HONORING ALEXANDRIA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 4A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, Paul "Bear" Bryant, the legendary football coach at the University of Alabama, used a now famous quote to inspire his football team. "If you believe in yourself and have dedication and pride—and never quit, you'll be a winner. The price of victory is high but so are the rewards." Well, the Alexandria High School Football Team of Alexandria, Alabama took Coach Bryant's words to heart as they worked, practiced, and sacrificed throughout their season to be the best that they could be. It was this dedication and desire that enabled the Alexandria High School Football team to win the 4A State Championship on December 12, 1997.

While their victory deserves to be recognized, what is more impressive is that this victory marked their second state football title in three years. In addition, this team ended their season with an impressive 13–1 record.

Over the course of the season, Mr. Speaker, the 51 players of this team bonded into a well-knit family, creating a strong following not only within the high school itself, but also throughout the small town of Alexandria. In fact, this team was such an inspiration to the community that well wishers converged on the stadium as early as 3:00 p.m. (nearly four hours before the kickoff) just to find seats. Such loyal fans are normally found only on college campuses, and I believe that through such a strong following, the players and

coaches were all that more determined to bring home the title.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that my colleagues join me in thanking the parents, teachers, students and others who have followed this team and offered their support for this squad throughout the entire season. Specifically, I would like to congratulate Head Coach Larry Ginn and the assistant coaches for a job well done.

I commend them all on the spirit, pride, and hard work they have shown to their community, and I wish them the very best of luck in seasons to come.

THE "AIRPORT SAFETY ACT"

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, last week I introduced legislation, H.R. 3463, to require U.S. airports to install enhanced vision technologies to replace or enhance conventional landing light systems over the next ten years. The "Airport Safety Act" will more than pay for itself because of the cost effectiveness of enhanced vision technologies and the reduction in airplane landing accidents and aborted landings. I urge all members to support this important legislation.

H.R. 3463 defines enhanced vision technologies as laser guidance, ultraviolet guidance, and cold cathode technologies. The bill directs the U.S. Department of Transportation to issue regulations requiring airports to install these technologies to replace or enhance conventional landing light systems within ten years of enactment of the legislation. In addition, H.R. 3463 makes the installation of enhanced vision technologies eligible for funding under the airport improvement program.

This bill will make use of a proven new technology to dramatically enhance aviation safety. According to the Flight Safety Foundation, loss of flight crew situational awareness is the primary cause of most airplane accidents. Situational awareness is best defined as an accurate perception of the factors and conditions affecting the safe operation of an aircraft.

Enhanced vision technologies represent a dramatic breakthrough in improving flight crew situational awareness during airplane landings—especially in low visibility situations. The U.S. military has already thoroughly deployed and tested these technologies—with excellent results. Laser guidance systems provide pilots with a visual navigation flight path from as far as 20 miles from the runway, with the precision of an advanced instrument landing system. Best of all, the installation of enhanced vision technologies to replace or enhance conventional landing light systems will require no additional aircraft equipment.

In addition to dramatically improving the ability of commercial pilots to land aircraft during night time, fog and other foul weather conditions, these technologies also will dramatically reduce the likelihood of traffic collisions at airports with parallel runways.

Enhanced vision technologies provide the U.S. aviation system with an unlimited amount of applications. They can be built and installed at high or low density airports, airports located

in mountainous terrain, unprepared and unlit airports, vertical landing zones, confined areas such as hospitals, law enforcement agencies, oil rig platforms and remote islands.

Perhaps the most dramatic aspect of enhanced vision technologies are their ability to penetrate most weather conditions—including dense fog. For example, ultraviolet electro-optical guidance systems (UVEOGS) are specifically designed to penetrate dense fog. In tests structured by the Federal Aviation Administration and the U.S. Air Force, UVEOGS were visible up to a half a mile under 700 feet visibility conditions. These tests indicated that when visibility conditions are 700 feet, an aircraft pilot can detect a UVEOGS cue on the heads-up display and transfer to actual visual approach guidance at a distance of at least 2,400 feet from the runway. UVEOGS technology will allow pilots to acquire runway visibility much earlier than with conventional systems—even under adverse weather conditions. This, in turn, will provide pilots with additional reaction time during landing approaches to make flight path corrections.

UVEOGS is also compatible with the enhance ground proximity warning system (EGPWS). The actual location and image of a runway, anchored to earth, can be displayed in concert with the EGPWS ground contour display. The combination of UVEOGS and EGPWS would mark a significant advance in preventing controlled flight into terrain accidents.

Cold cathode technology produces a more uniform light output than a typical incandescent light. As a result, cold cathode lights leave no after image on the retina, even after looking directly into the light. This is important in aviation applications, especially helicopter operations, because cold cathode lights allow a pilot to see around the light, not just the light itself, thereby increasing the pilot's situational awareness and spatial orientation.

One final note about enhanced vision technologies. Yes, there will be a cost to airports associated with replacing or enhancing conventional landing light system with enhanced vision technologies. However, because enhanced vision technologies generally use less electricity than conventional lighting landing light systems, and are less expensive to maintain, in the long run they will pay for themselves. In addition, the "Airport Safety Act" gives airports ten years to install this technology. Finally, the bill allows airports to use AIP money to finance the installation of the new technology.

There exist today technologies to reduce the threat to aviation safety posed by adverse weather. Enhanced vision technologies have been tested by the U.S. military. They work, and they work well. The time has come for Congress to step up to the plate and require that this proven safety-enhancing technology be installed at all U.S. airports. If Congress is truly concerned about aviation safety, it will pass H.R. 3463.

THE FACULTY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE ACT

HON. HARRIS W. FAWELL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to today join with my colleagues Messrs. GOOD-

LING, MCKEON, ANDREWS, ROEMER, and PETRI in introducing the Faculty Retirement Incentive Act. This bill would amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) to clarify that it is permissible for colleges and universities to offer voluntary early retirement incentives to tenured faculty that are in part age-based.

I support the principles of the ADEA and note that the Act has already recognized the unique nature of faculty tenure. In 1986, when Congress amended the ADEA to abolish the mandatory retirement age, it included a seven year exemption for tenured faculty. On December 31, 1993, that exemption was allowed to expire as recommended by a congressionally mandated study, by the National Academy of Sciences, on the impact of an uncapped retirement age on higher education. The Academy's report, however, concluded that diminished faculty turnover—particularly at research universities—could increase costs and limit institutional flexibility in responding to changing academic needs, particularly with regard to necessary hires in new and expanding fields and discipline. It thus predicated its recommendation for ending mandatory retirement on the enactment of several proposals to mitigate these negative effects. The legislation I am introducing today is one of those proposals.

Moreover, this past January, the bipartisan National Commission on the Cost of Higher Education included this legislative initiative in its recommendations to check the skyrocketing cost of a college education. The Commission recommended that "Congress enact a clarification to the Age Discrimination in Employment Act to ensure that institutions offering defined contribution retirement programs are able to offer early retirement incentives to tenured faculty members. The Commission endorses pending Senate Bill 153, which would accomplish this purpose." This legislation which I am introducing today is similar to S. 153, introduced by Senators MOYNIHAN and ASHCROFT.

However, unlike the Senate version, this bill does not permit an early retirement incentive open exclusively to faculty in a given age range. Under this legislation, a college or university must allow all faculty who qualify for a retirement incentive at the time a plan is established, but for their having attained too advanced an age, at least 6 months to elect to retire and receive that incentive. Thus, no professor is denied eligibility for any retirement incentive on the basis of age.

This legislation has been endorsed by the union that represents university faculty, the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). According to the AAUP, voluntary early retirement incentives are beneficial for both the faculty members who choose to retire and the institutions that need to encourage turnover to make necessary hires. Further, the voluntary nature of the proposed incentives and the double protections available to tenured faculty—the age discrimination laws and the tenure system—insure that this "safe harbor" cannot be used to penalize faculty members who choose not to retire. The AAUP wrote in a January 30, 1998 letter that it supports the legislation because "the retirement incentives under discussion are offered on a voluntary basis . . . [and] the legislation would permit an offer of additional benefits. It would not permit institutions to reduce or eliminate